



Appl. No. 10/087,153

Amdt. dated May 17, 2005

Reply to Office Action of December 9, 2005

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-25 are pending. Claims 1 and 21-24 are amended. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of all pending claims.

Claims Rejected Under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1-25 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Chishti et al. (PCT Publication WO 98/58596). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As currently amended, independent claim 1 is directed to a computer-implemented method for separating a tooth from adjacent structure, involving defining a cutting surface and applying the cutting surface between the tooth and the structure to separate the tooth from the structure in a single cut. Applying the cutting surface includes reconstructing a root of the tooth. Each of independent claims 21-24 also includes reconstructing a root of a tooth. Chishti, by contrast, does not describe, teach or suggest reconstructing a root of a tooth. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Chishti does not anticipate any of independent claims 1 and 21-24, or any of dependent claims 2-20 and 25, which depend therefrom.

Applicants are also resubmitting those portions of the IDS which were rejected by the Examiner. Paper copies of the references are being submitted.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

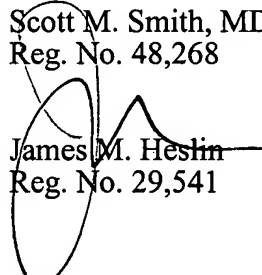
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If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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